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**GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS CELEBRATES KANSAS ARTS,  
PERFORMANCES BY AREA ARTISTS**

Topeka, Kan. – The Kansas Arts Commission is pleased to honor the dedication and contributions to artistic and cultural enrichment in the state of Kansas with the 2011 Governor's Arts Awards. **Winners and performers will be recognized at a reception and awards ceremony from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at Washburn University's Memorial Union Washburn Room.**

The event will feature performances by Allegro Community Children's Choir, Lenexa, and Kelley Hunt, Lawrence, a 2007 Governor's Arts Awards Recipient and Kansas Arts on Tour Roster Artist.

Heralded as "the voice of angels" by *The Kansas City Star*, the Choir inspires thousands of audience members each year, locally, nationally, and abroad with its varied repertoire and heartfelt singing.

Ms. Hunt has had a career comprised of over 1,500 international live performances, appearances on some of the world's most prominent blues and pan-genre music festival stages, network radio, television and syndicated broadcast vehicles including seven live appearances on NPR/PRI's *A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor* and four CD releases in international distribution.

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Attendees to the event will also have the opportunity to view the popular viral video "Sunflower," produced by Lawrence High students Max Griffith, junior; Kathryn Lunte, senior; and Bailie Richards, junior. The students are instructed by Jeff Kuhr, film/media teacher.

In addition, Sara Paretsky, a best-selling author and native Kansan, will be honored with this year's Distinguished Arts Award. Paretsky is credited with transforming the role and image of women in the crime novel with the heroine V.I. Warshawski, a female private investigator. Paretsky's work is celebrated in the documentary *Women of Mystery*, and the actress Kathleen Turner played V.I. Warshawski in the 1991 movie of the same name. She was recently named to receive the 2011 Mystery Writers of America Grand Master award.

The Governor's Arts Awards are given annually to distinguished Kansas artists, patrons and arts educators, and have been given annually since 1974 by the governor and the Kansas Arts Commission. An expert panel selected the winners from submitted nominations.

2011 honorees are Arkansas City Area Arts Council (Arts Organization); Louis Copt, Lecompton (Artist); Willa Griswold, Marysville (Arts Advocate); Martha E. "Betty" Muncy, Dodge City (Arts Patron); and Linda Reimond, Lawrence (Arts-in-Education).

Tickets are still available for the event. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://arts.ks.gov/gaa>.

The Kansas Arts Commission is a state agency, funded by the State of Kansas and the National Endowment for the Arts, dedicated to promoting and supporting the arts in Kansas. Its mission is to provide opportunities for the people of Kansas to experience, celebrate and value the arts throughout their lives. For more information on the Kansas Arts Commission, please visit the KAC website at <http://arts.ks.gov>.

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